

Amesbury Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1937.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 18th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in circular 1,650 issued by the Ministry of Health to you in October 1937. As modern Public Health matters are mostly under the control of the County Councils, this report must necessarily be confined mainly to statistics and sanitary administration, as only those matters with which you are concerned are dealt with.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931: 16,883

Population—Estimated Mid 1937—17,600

Area, 63,464 Acres

Rateable Value: £92,259

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £376

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1937, 3,043

Births, 1937.	Male.	Female.	Total.				Birth Rate, 1937.				England and Wales
Live	151	174	325 (7 Illegitimate)	Live	18.4	Live	18.4	Live	14.9	14.9	
Still	2	0	2 (0 „)	Still	0.1	Still	0.1	Still	0.6	0.6	
			1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Birth Rate			18.1	17.6	17.9	18.8	20.2	20.4	18.8	19.3	19.6
England and Wales			14.8	14.7	14.8	14.4	15.3	15.8	16.3	16.3	16.7

Deaths: Males, 78. Females, 55. Total, 133.

		1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Death Rate	9.6	9.9	9.1	9.1	8.4	7.1	10.9	8.6	9.66	6.08	
England and Wales ..	12.4	12.1	11.7	11.8	12.3	12.0	12.3	11.4	13.4	11.17	

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age: Males 5. Females 2. Total, 7 (Illegitimate 0)

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	21.5	19.4	38.5	48	51.1	34.4	66.6	57.4	50.4	38.8
England and Wales	58	59	57	59	64	65	66	60	74	65
Deaths from Measles (all ages),	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
„ Diarrhoea (under two years)	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	3	2
No. of Women dying in consequence of Child Birth	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	5	2

The comparability factor this year for death rate is given as 1.29.

The District is chiefly agricultural in character. The chief industrial undertaking is that of Messrs. Heavers Ltd., Coach Builders, Durrington. There are small undertakings which come under the heading of factories owing to the employment of mechanical power. These are the Electric Light Station at Amesbury, Builders at Durrington, and a Laundry at Shrewton.

Although the district is agricultural in character, a large proportion of the inhabitants are employed in the Military Camps at Larkhill, Bulford and Porton and the Royal Air Force Camps at Boscombe Down and Figheldean.

NAMES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

C. Laidman, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Insp., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

F. Walls, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. Additional Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.					Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	31	23	(1 Mil.)	0
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	12	12	(1 Mil.)	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	0	0		0
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	0	0		0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	13	(5 Mil.)	5 (5 Mil.)	0
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	3	(1 Mil.)	1 (1 Mil.)	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	0	0		0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	1	1		0
Malaria	..	..	..	..	2	(Mil.)	2 (Mil.)	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	..	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	..	2 (1 Mil.)	1	1 (Mil.)	—	1	—	—	—
20	..	..	..	1 (Mil.)	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	..	..	..	5 (2 Mil.)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	..	..	..	2 (1 Mil.)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	..	..	10	8	5	1	2	1	0	0

No action was taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the Milk trade.

No action was taken by the Council under Sec. 62 P.H.A., 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. 31 cases were notified during the year but they were only sporadic cases with, on several occasions, two or three in one family, and in no instance did the disease become epidemic. They were usually of a mild type and in one or two cases the diagnosis was even doubtful.

Diphtheria. 12 cases were notified and sent to Hospital and in addition 3 cases were sent to Hospital which turned out not to be diphtheria. Owing to the fact that early diagnosis is very essential to the ultimate success of treatment and the prevention death this is an unpreventable occurrence and is one which should be encouraged. 4 of the 12 cases were in one house and two in another.

Pneumonia. 13 cases were notified to me, of these 5 were among the military, and it was only these which were treated in hospital. None of the notified cases died, but two females and one male which had not been previously notified to me died. The Registrar-General in his returns gives 7 males and 2 females as dying from this disease, but as he includes all kinds and only two kinds are notifiable this accounts for the difference.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever, The one case notified was in a child of a soldier age nine months, and as this was treated by the military I have no details.

Malaria. These two cases were in soldiers and the disease was contracted abroad.

Erysipelas. Of the 3 cases notified 1 was in a soldier and calls for no comment.

Tuberculosis. 20 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 6 of non-pulmonary were notified during the year, and during the same period two male and one female deaths occurred.

WATER SUPPLY.

Amesbury Parish. The Amesbury Main Water Supply has again proved highly satisfactory. Further repairs have been carried to valves, hydrants and other fittings.

16 connections were made to the mains to supply 31 new houses, 1 bakehouse, and 1 new garage for the Wilts & Dorset Motors Ltd.

Analysis done in 1937 showed the water to be a pure one.

Chemical.					Parts per 100,000
Reaction	P.H. 7.3	...	...	...	Alkaline to Litmus
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permang. in 2 hrs. at 27° C.	...	...	...	...	0.003
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.8
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	1.
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	32.
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	22.
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	10.
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical Examination of the Sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil

Bacteriological Examination.

Total Colonies growing at 37° C in 48 hours 3 per 1 c.c. of water.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms ... Nil per 100 c.c. of water.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations show this to be a pure water ; it is suitable for drinking purposes

Several subsequent bacteriological examinations gave sterile results.

Cholderton Parish. The Parish of Cholderton is supplied by the Cholderton Water Company. The supply is from 2 wells, storage being by 4 tanks, the aggregate capacity being 500,000 gallons. 53 houses are connected to this supply in the Amesbury Rural District and various parishes in the Andover Rural District (Hampshire) are also supplied.

Bulford and Durrington Parishes. These parishes are supplied by the Main Scheme which was put into operation in 1934. The majority of the houses are connected to the mains and the supply is very satisfactory. 26 connections were made to the mains to supply 34 new houses and 11 existing houses.

A sample taken in 1937 showed the water to be pure.

Chemical.					Parts per 100,000
Re-action	P.H. 7.6	...	...	...	Alkaline to Litmus
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (2 hours at 27° C.)	...	...	...	...	0.018
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	2.4
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	1.
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	39.
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	31.
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	8.
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil

Bacteriological.

Total Colonies growing at 37° C. in 48 hours 3 per 1 c.c. of water.

Number of Coli-aerogenes organisms ... Nil per 100 c.c. of water.

Opinion. Both Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations show this to be a pure water ; it is suitable for drinking purposes.

Several subsequent Bacteriological Examinations gave sterile results.

Parishes of Lake and Woodford. A portion of the Parish of Woodford, known as Upper Woodford, is supplied by Lake House Estate. The scheme comprises a 30ft. bore hole, electric pumps and a 10,000 gallon reservoir. This supplies some 24 cottages, 3 large houses and 3 farms.

The Village of Lake is also supplied by the Lake House Supply, which consists of a bore-hole, electrically operated pumps, and a 15,000 gallon reservoir near Hill Plantation. This supplies the whole of the village of Lake, including Lake House.

Shrewton Parish. Some progress has been made in connection with the Water Supply Scheme for this Parish, although it has not progressed as quickly as I anticipated in my last report. The bore hole has been sunk to a depth of 150 feet. The pumping test over a period of 13 days at the rate of 7,500 to 10,000 gallons per hour proved satisfactory. A sample of water taken on completion of the pumping test proved fairly satisfactory, but a further sample is to be taken when the permanent pumping plant has been installed.

Tenders for the main work have (May, 1938) been considered by the Council.

Tilshead Parish. The Supply from the War Department to 2 stand-pipes in the village continues to prove satisfactory, and insures a constant supply to this village.

Generally. The remaining parishes derive their water supply from wells, a large number of which are shallow and therefore may be regarded with suspicion.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Amesbury Parish. The parish of Amesbury is the only one in the district which has the advantage of a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal. The scheme continues to work efficiently. Samples of the effluent which is discharged into the River Avon have been taken and proved satisfactory.

During the past year a humus tank and effluent channelling has been added to the works, thus releasing the irrigation land, which has been a source of trouble for some time. This land has now been set out and let to inhabitants of Amesbury as Allotments.

Various lengths of sewers in Amesbury now need scraping and cleaning, and this work is to be put in hand at an early date.

Durrington Parish. The Sanitary conditions in this parish are in the same unsatisfactory condition as mentioned in my last Report. A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal was prepared by your Engineers some considerable time ago and negotiations commenced for the acquisition of a site for the outfall works. The acquisition of a suitable site has unfortunately delayed the progress of the scheme. Two sites have been considered, but purchase was not completed owing to certain difficulties. A third site has now been considered, and I hope this will be acquired at an early date and the scheme proceeded with.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A scheme of central refuse collection of house refuse was put into operation on the 1st April, 1937. The refuse from the Parishes of Amesbury, Durrington, Bulford and Shrewton is collected once weekly, and the refuse from the remaining parishes being collected once fortnightly. A refuse destructor was installed at Boscombe Down to deal with a portion of the refuse collected, the remainder being dumped on the old dump at Amesbury.

Approximately 1,300 tons of refuse have been collected from April 1st to the end of December. The unsatisfactory dumps in a number of parishes have been tidied and covered, and I am pleased to report that from a public health point of view the scheme is a vast improvement on the old method of indiscriminate dumping.

The Council is now (May, 1938) considering the provision of a further refuse destructor to deal with the whole of the refuse of the district, and when this is complete the whole of the refuse should be dealt with satisfactorily.

Night Soil. A weekly collection by contract is carried out in Durrington and Bulford.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT.

The pollution of rivers has received attention. Great care has been taken to ensure a good effluent from the Amesbury Sewage Disposal Works. Samples of this effluent are taken by the County Medical Officer of Health's Department, and these have proved satisfactory.

In the Winterbourne Valley cases of pollution by house drainage discharging directly into the river have been found, and these have received the necessary attention.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversion from Pail Closet to E.C. Apart from the Parish of Amesbury, the majority of closets are pail closets. There have been no conversions from pails to E.C.'s.

Conversion from E.C. to W.C. In the Parish of Amesbury 5 pail closets have been converted to W.C.'s.

Number of new connections of W.C.'s. to the Amesbury sewers is 15; this number being in respect of 29 new houses and 2 existing houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The tables show that the Sanitary Inspection of the district has been thoroughly carried out. A total of 979 inspections have been recorded. In addition to this number, many routine inspections have been made. The necessary action has been taken where defects have been found, and in no case has it been necessary to resort to Statutory action.

The inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies has received particular attention, and although the standard is generally satisfactory, 23 defects were found and by the end of the year 14 of these were remedied.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances	143	41	28	—	20	—	10
Slaughterhouses	175	3	1	—	1	—	2
Knacker's Yards	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared	33	2	2	—	—	—	2
Cowsheds	445	23	14	—	11	—	3
Dairies and Milkstores ..							
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	16	3	2	—	2	—	1
Bakehouses	24	1	—	—	—	—	1
Butchers' Shops	130	5	—	—	—	—	4
Totals	979	78	48	0	34	0	23

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1937)	...	..	—	93
„ Retail Purveyors registered (1937)	...	..	..	48
„ Certificates issued (Producers) during 1937	..	..	..	—
„ Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1937	..	..	..	—
Approximate number of Cows	..	..	..	2,500

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses ..	...	...	...	...	4
Notices received of Regular Slaughter ..	...	...	...	...	7
Notices received of Casual Slaughter ..	...	...	...	...	23

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Only 1 case of contravention of the above Act has been found, this being lack of sanitary accommodation. This was remedied by informal action.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are no Public Swimming Pools constructed as such in this district. Public bathing is carried on extensively in the River Avon, especially in the parishes of Amesbury and Durrington. No samples from these parts of the River have been taken.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One case of infestation of a house by bugs occurred at Tilshead in a Council house ; this was dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector and the infestation removed.

HOUSING.

Housing by private enterprise has continued to be very satisfactory. 90 plans were submitted during the year, including plans for 265 houses, 19 alterations and additions to houses, 9 garages and 9 other buildings. Plans for 108 houses were disapproved, including two lay-out plans for 79 and 23 houses respectively. Plans were submitted for 53 Council houses as follows :

	8 houses	Winterbourne Gunner.
12	„	Holders Road, Amesbury.
8	„	Tilshead.
11	„	Cold Harbour, Amesbury.
14	„	Durrington.

The clearance and re-building at Cold Harbour has been completed during the year. The 11 houses occupied by persons displaced in the Clearance Area.

Re-building in the Parish of Durrington has commenced and houses will be ready in the early months of 1938.

In connection with your Council's programme under the Housing Acts, 1930-1936, 29 houses have been demolished, displacing 98 persons, 18 have been made fit for human habitation, 3 have been put out of use for human habitation, and there now remains 33 houses to be dealt with.

The Council now owns 313 houses as set out below, and in addition 48 are now under construction (May, 1938).

AMESBURY	...	...	60 non-parlour type	TILSHEAD	...	...	6	„	„
			22 parlour type	MIDDLE WOODFORD	...	...	4	„	„
			3 non-parlour type	UPPER WOODFORD	...	...	2	„	„
			8 „ „	WINTERBOURNE					
ALLINGTON	...	...	4 non-parlour type	GUNNER	...	...	20	„	„
BULFORD	...	...	24 „ „	WINTERBOURNE					
BOSCOMBE	...	...	8 „ „	DAUNTSEY	...	...	6	„	„
CHOLDERTON	...	...	8 „ „						
DURNFORD	...	...	4 „ „						
DURRINGTON	...	...	12 parlour type						
			68 non-parlour type						
FIGHELDEAN	...	...	4 „ „						
IDMISTON	...	...	6 „ „						
NEWTON TONEY	...	...	8 „ „						
ORCHESTON	...	...	6 „ „						
SHREWTON	...	...	18 „ „						
			12 „ „						

Under Construction.

DURRINGTON	...	...	14 non-parlour type
AMESBURY	...	...	12 „ „
WINTERBOUNE	...	...	8 „ „
IDMISTON	...	...	6 „ „
TILSHEAD	...	...	8 „ „

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1936.

Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1937, under the above Acts, in the Amesbury Rural District.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	407
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	502
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	198
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	209
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	118

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	43
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	27

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	56
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	61
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	339
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

Conditions with regard to overcrowding are practically the same as last year.
Re-housing to abate overcrowding is in progress in the parishes of Amesbury, Durrington, Winterbourne and Idmiston.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.		M.	F.
All Causes	...	78	55
1 Typhoid fever, etc.	...		
2 Measles	...		
3 Scarlet fever	...		
4 Whooping cough	...		
5 Diphtheria	...		
6 Influenza	...		4
7 Encephalitis lethargica...	...		
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...		
9 Respiratory tuberculosis	...	2	1
10 Other tuberculous	...		
11 Syphilis	...		
12 General paralysis of the insane, etc.	...		
13 Cancer	...	13	8
14 Diabetes	...		2
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	5	8
16 Heart disease	...	18	16
17 Aneurysm	...		

Causes of death.		M.	F.
18 Other circulatory	...	1	1
19 Bronchitis	...	4	1
20 Pneumonia	...	7	2
21 Other respiratory	...		
22 Peptic Ulcer	...		
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...		
24 Appendicitis	...	1	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...		
26 Other diseases of liver,	...		
27 Other digestive	...	5	
28 Nephritis	...	3	2
29 Puerperal sepsis...	...		
30 Other puerperal	...		
31 Congenital causes, etc.	...	3	2
32 Senility	...	1	1
33 Suicide	...	3	
34 Other violence	...	4	3
35 Other defined causes	...	8	3

Causes of death.		M.	F.
36 Ill-defined causes	...		
Special Causes (included in No. 35)			
Small-pox	...		
Poliomyelitis	...		
Polioencephalitis	...		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—			
Total	...	5	2
Legitimate	...	5	2
Illegitimate	...		
Live Births			
Total	...	151	174
Legitimate	...	148	170
Illegitimate	...	3	4
Stillbirths			
Total	...	2	
Legitimate	...	2	
Illegitimate	...		
Population		17,600	